

Claims

- [c1] What is claimed is:
- 1.A method of providing device-dependent print data to a printer by a computer system, the computer system comprising:
- an operating system having an upper layer for controlling a graphical device interface, and a lower layer for controlling input/output activities;
- the method comprising:
- providing a printer manager for generating the print data, the printer manager comprising a device-dependent converter for converting input data into device-dependent output data;
- providing encoded data to the printer manager;
- the printer manager decoding the encoded data to generate raw data, and
- utilizing the converter to convert the raw data into the device-dependent print data without utilizing the upper layer;
- providing the device-dependent print data to the lower layer; and
- the lower layer of the operating system outputting the device-dependent print data to the printer.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein the converter converts the raw data into gray-level image data and converts the gray-level image data into the device-dependent print data.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 1 wherein the converter converts the raw data into cyan-magenta-yellow-black (CMYK) image data and converts the CMYK image data into the device-dependent print data.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 1 wherein the printer manager further comprises a user interface for configuring the printer manager, wherein the converter converts the raw data into the device-dependent print data according to configuration information of the user interface.
- [c5] 5.The method of claim 1 wherein the printer manager further comprises a compressor for compressing the device-dependent print data, and the printer comprises a decompressor for decompressing the compressed device-dependent print data.

- [c6] 6.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) format.
- [c7] 7.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a graphics interchange format (GIF).
- [c8] 8.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a bitmap (BMP) format.
- [c9] 9.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a tag image file format(TIFF).